

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

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ANNUAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 17TH JANUARY, 1951, at 5.30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Announcement of election of Officers and Council for 1951.
2. Admission of Fellows.
3. Council's Report.
4. Treasurer's Report and Balance Sheet.
5. **The President's Address.**
6. Vote of thanks to the Officers.

TEA will be served in the Library before the meeting.

A card index of Fellows' addresses arranged on a geographical basis is now available for the use of Fellows in the Society's Rooms. Addresses in Great Britain are grouped under counties; elsewhere under Dominions, Colonies, Foreign States, etc.

ADMISSION OF FELLOWS

Any Fellow who has not been formally admitted to the Society under Chapter XIV, Section 4 of the Bye-laws and attends the meeting on 17th January, 1951, is requested to inform the Secretary before 5.15 p.m. on that date.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 6TH DECEMBER, 1950.

Dr. V. B. Wigglesworth, F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

Present, 76 Fellows and 23 Visitors.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 1st November, 1950, were confirmed and signed by the President.

The names of the following candidates for election were read for the first time :
Guran Lal Arora, M.Sc., John Henry Burman, Hsiu-fu Chao, Nirmal Chandra Chatterji, M.Sc., Dr. Peter Fenjves, George Ronald Gradwell, B.A., Dr. R. L. Gupta, Professor Brian Hocking, The Rev. T. B. Kitchen, Chandy Kurian, M.Sc., F. H. Lees, J. R. Mair, I. W. Beresford Nye, S. N. Rao, M.Sc., D. J. W. Rose, F. N. Wright, B.A.

For the second time (taken as read): P. T. Haskell, E. Lewis, Col. Niall MacNeill, M.R.I.A., and J. P. Tunstall.

The Secretary read the names of the following newly elected Fellows of the Society: F. L. Hatcher, 18, St. Edmund's Drive, Stanmore, Middlesex; J. H. Murgatroyd, F.L.S., F.R.M.S., F.Z.S., Arachne, Warren Edge Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth, Hampshire; G. S. Noble, 2, Poynders Road, Clapham, London, S.W.4; P. M. Thomas, Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi, India.

Thanks were voted to donors of gifts to the Library since the last meeting.

The Secretary read for the second time the nominations for Officers and Council for 1951.

The following papers, accepted for publication in the *Transactions*, were read in title:

"A new genus and species of myrmecophilous DIAPRIIDAE (Hymenoptera) with taxonomic and biological notes on related forms," by M. W. Wing.

"An introduction to a classification of the avian Ischnura (Mallophaga)," by Theresa Clay.

"The morphology, taxonomy and biology of the British Evanioidea (Hymenoptera)," by R. W. Crosskey. [Communicated by Mr. J. F. Perkins.]

"A record of the STREBLIDAE (Diptera) from the Philippines and other Pacific Islands, including the morphology of the abdomen, host-parasite relationship and geographical distribution, and with descriptions of five new species," by B. Jobling.

Mr. B. A. J. Nowosielski-Slepowron, Mr. P. S. Corbet and Mr. H. G. Allcard signed the Obligation Book and were admitted Fellows of the Society.

The President extended a welcome to Professor O. Theodor, of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, and to Major Robert Traub, of the U.S. Army Medical Center.

He also extended the Society's congratulations to Dr. Karl Jordan, F.R.S., a past President, on attaining his eighty-ninth birthday.

Mr. J. F. Perkins exhibited series of specimens of *Amblyteles palliatorius* Gravenhorst and *A. gradarius* Thünberg to show the replacement of the black markings of the abdomen by red; also series of *Cratichneumon fabricator* Fabricius from the British Isles, where it is very variable in colour and from West Europe, where it is comparatively stable.

Professor Carpenter said it interested him that black markings should be replaced by red; in the Acraeinae butterflies of Africa red was replaced by yellow. This suggested that a different pigment was involved.

Dr. N. E. Hickin exhibited specimens of *Lepideella brevipennis* Mulsant. He said that this minute Cerambycid beetle was rare in the British Isles, and when found it was usually associated with wickerwork or osier of European origin. The basket and part of a wattle hurdle, also exhibited, were of British origin and formed part of a collection of rural crafts, etc., heavily infested with this beetle. In reply to an enquiry from the President he said that he had no record of the infestation of growing osier, and only dry wood appeared to be attacked.

Dr. Hickin also exhibited a case of an unidentified Caddis larva from Dorset made up of the oogonia of a charaphyte.

Dr. O. W. Richards gave a short communication on the genitalia of two species of VESPIDAE. He said the genera *Celonites* and *Quartinia* were very distinct on external characters, but one species of *Celonites* had male genitalia

more like those of *Quartinia* than of its congeners. The morphological details were illustrated by a lantern slide.

He also spoke of "fossil islands" in the Guiana Forest and mentioned that Davis in 1941 had shown that certain low hills in British Guiana had relatively recently been islands in the sea. On them occurred a number of peculiar tree species known from nowhere else in spite of the fact that rain forest trees were usually widely distributed. In the same general region there occurred a new subspecies and a new species of *Polybia* (VESPIDAE).

Dr. J. W. Evans exhibited the larva of *Nola metallopa* Walker, a native of Australia, where it was known as the Seedling Gum Moth, and fed on the foliage of eucalyptus, occasionally becoming so abundant as to be regarded as a pest. He said it was sometimes useful to know the particular instar of a caterpillar, and in certain circumstances Dyar's Law might be used for this purpose, Dyar having demonstrated that head width followed a regular progression in successive instars. In *Nola metallopa*, however, such calculations were unnecessary, for the head capsule was not discarded at each moult when the old skin was lost, but retained. The specimen exhibited had four such old capsules and was therefore in its fifth instar. All stages of the insect were figured in 1923 by Froggatt (*Insects of Australia* : 67).

In reply to an inquiry by Professor Varley, Dr. Evans said that no behaviour tricks were associated with this habit, and that the capsules were held on by the interlocking of hairs. The President mentioned a species of *Tineola* with six head capsules all of the same size.

Mr. H. M. Edelsten exhibited specimens of *Hydrillula palustris* Hübner from Wood Walton Fen, bred for the first time in Britain in 1941-1943 by the late Sir John Fryer and himself, together with a series captured between 1936 and 1939 (one of the latter being a melanic specimen), also a preserved larva, pupae and a cocoon. He said very few females had previously been noted in Britain. He also said that the larvae hibernated when full fed, but were very subject to attacks by the fungus *Cephalosporium subclavatum* Petch. The life history of *H. palustris* had been published in the *Entomologist* in 1944 (77 : 49-54 ; 65-72).

Mr. C. N. Hawkins asked for information about the number of eggs laid and whether the apparent scarcity of females was possibly due to predators. Mr. Edelsten mentioned that one female had laid over a hundred eggs. Mr. Riley having inquired as to how the insects were reared, Mr. Edelsten said that the larvae were first found accidentally and attempts to rear them failed, owing to attacks by fungus. Attempts were successful when miniature fens were made in flower pots containing grass, *Spiraea*, plantain and dandelion. The larvae appeared to prefer slightly withered food. In April they spun up a frail cocoon. They normally emerged about June, but emergence was retarded, not advanced, by a hot spell ; his specimens had all been taken on nights when the weather was noticeably bad, the insect seeming to prefer cold wet weather.

Miss L. E. Cheesman spoke on the survival of *Hemerobius* species after transportation by wind in a strong gale off New Guinea. She said that in Geelvink Bay, north New Guinea, midway between the Wandammen Peninsula and Serui, Japen Is., lat. 2° 25' S., long. 125° 4' E., she saw an insect blown over the rail of the small trading vessel she was in and discovered it was a *Hemerobius*. It fell among copra sacks and appeared to be dead, but as it was holding on by the tarsal claw she thought it might still be alive. After three-quarters of an hour it moved one antenna ; when the pair of antennae were moving it began to move the legs. After 1 hour and 40 minutes it was walking about in the box. On nearing land it flew shorewards. When first observed the nearest land was

60 miles distant. Although the nervous system was temporarily not functioning the insect recovered.

Professor Buxton recalled evidence that other related insects were often airborne. In Samoa he had found that ten species of green Chrysopids, of which none was endemic, were all characteristically widely distributed. It was possible that these large insects with ample wings were among those carried in the upper air by the wind. Some confirmation of this was forthcoming from Professor A. C. Hardy's work on airborne insects in the North Sea, specimens of *Chrysopa* having been among the insects caught by him.

Miss Cheesman expressed her conviction that immense numbers of insects were constantly being swept out to sea and so might become distributed to new territories. In the mountains of New Guinea she had actually seen this happening regularly, and she believed the insects so caught up in these powerful winds had nearly always paired first.

Professor Hale Carpenter showed a number of recently received examples of marks inflicted upon the wings of butterflies by birds and lizards, pointing out how the latter marks could be distinguished, and that they were relatively much rarer. He appealed for further examples of such "bad specimens" for further study.

Mr. Mackworth-Praed commented on the resemblance of a lizard mark to that which would be made by a broadbill.

Mr. R. W. Lloyd exhibited specimens of *Plectophloeus nitidus* Fairmaire (Coleoptera: PSELAPHIDAE). He said that when Mr. Allen was collecting with him at Moccas Park last May, he found one specimen of this rare and interesting beetle. A few days later he was himself able to take a fair number, which Mr. Britten had identified. The beetle was first taken in Britain by Mr. Donisthorpe, who found two specimens in Windsor Forest in 1928 in decayed red oak wood, just as he had found it. It was very difficult to see. There was no other record except that of Mr. Donisthorpe, who recorded his capture in the *Entomologist's Record* 40: 39, 1928. (See also the *Annotated List*, p. 44, 1931.)

The only close relative of this species in Britain, with which it could be confused, was *P. nubigena* Reitter, found also very rarely in Windsor and Sherwood Forests. *Plectophloeus* Reitter was practically a subgenus of the large genus *Euplectus*.

Mr. L. Parmenter exhibited the following British Diptera: *Agromyza anthracina* Meigen (AGROMYZIDAE). Flies reared by Mr. M. Niblett emerged on 17th April, 1949, from leaf mines in nettle, *Urtica dioica*, collected on 14th November, 1948, at Bookham Common, Surrey. Pressed mines were also exhibited of *A. anthracina* Meigen and *A. reptans* Fallén, both being found in nettle leaves. The mine of the latter commenced with a small gently undulating mine which followed the leaf edge, steadily swelling until the larva emerged to pupate in the ground. *A. anthracina* began its mine with narrow backward and forward parallel tunnelling and on broadening out excavated a large blotch between the main veins. Although the mine might reach the edge of the leaf it was never wholly restricted to the leaf edge as was that of *A. reptans*. This species was a recent addition to the British List. (Audcent, H., 1950, Bristol Insect Fauna, Diptera. *Proc. Bristol Nat. Soc.* 28: 88; and Parmenter, L., 1950, The Diptera of Bookham Common, *Lond. Nat.* 29: 126).

Palloptra neutra Pandellé (PALLOPTERIDAE), first recorded in Britain from Bookham Common, Surrey, taken from 11th April to 12th May and on 14th October. It favoured the margins of shaded pools, but its life-history appeared to be unknown. The larvae of other species of the genus had been reared by

Mr. Niblett and himself from flowerheads of *Carlina vulgaris* L. and the stems of *Angelica sylvestris* L. (Parmenter, L., 1950, The Diptera of Bookham Common, *Lond. Nat.* **29** : 120.)

Ula sylvatica Meigen (TIPULIDAE), bred from the fungus *Russula nigricans* (Bull.) Fr. from Bookham Common, Surrey, collected 8th October, 1950; flies emerged 19th and 25th November, 1950. The species had previously been recorded as bred from the fungi *Hypholoma fasciculare* (Huds.) Fr. and *Tricholoma album* (Schaeff.) Fr. by Audcent (1949, Bristol Insect Fauna, Diptera, *Proc. Bristol Nat. Soc.* **27** : 417).

Solva [= *Xylomyia*] *maculata* Meigen (STRATIOMYIIDAE) bred from the damp rotten wood of a beech tree from Epping Forest, Essex. Flies emerged 4th June and 26th July, 1950. The species was previously only known from the New Forest, Hants, and Virginia Water, Surrey (Verrall, G. H., 1909, *British Flies*, **5** : 219-224; Richards, O. W., 1934, Some breeding records of Diptera, *J. Soc. Brit. Ent.* **1** : 2-3; and Parmenter, L., 1950, A note on the genus *Solva* (= *Xylomyia*) (Dipt., STRATIOMYIIDAE) in the London area, *Ent. mon. Mag.* **86** : 264).

Scopeuma [= *Scatophaga*] *stercorarium* L. (CORDYLURIDAE). A female with, as prey, a male *Madiza glabra* Fallén [MILICHIIDAE] captured on a flowerhead of Oxford ragwort, *Senecio squalidus* L., at the bombed sites, Cripplegate, City of London, 26th April, 1947. He said *S. stercorarium* was the Common Dung Fly breeding in dung, chiefly that of cows. It was well known as a predator on other Diptera, but *Madiza glabra* had not, to his knowledge, previously been noted as its prey. It was generally found on the bombed sites visiting flowers, including those of *Salix*.

Mr. A. de Porochin spoke on the life history of the stone fly, *Perla cephalotes* Curtis, which he had observed on several visits in the spring of 1949 to the Goyt Valley, close to Whaley Bridge and Taxal (Cheshire). The species had not been found in 1948 in the Taxal area, though many other genera were present, but in 1949 he was able to take nymphs and imagines. The females still carried their egg clusters and he was able to record the metamorphosis of this insect, which was usually overlooked, as it lived in moderately swift rivers and only appeared for about three hours at the middle of the day. The female usually dropped her egg cluster in the calmer stretches of the water near the river bank, but he also saw a few of them dropped in the swifter water. The cluster then sank to the river bed. The nymphs were entirely aquatic, provided with strong mandibles and preyed on larval forms. When fully grown they crawled upon stones and stalks of *Petasites ovatus* Hill., and the emergence of a new imago took place by splitting the segments of the thorax lengthwise, thus leaving behind the empty nymph case, which remained firmly attached in the original position. The new imagines rested under the leaves until their wings were dry and then became agitated and quickly disappeared or flew off at the slightest disturbance. For this reason they were rarely seen unless searched for. The genus was widespread in the district and the nymphs preferred the stalks of *Petasites*, few stones being present. In 1950 the species was absent from the district. Even allowing for the fact that the ova are carried away by the current and that many ecdyses took place two to three years before the insect became adult, traces of previous generations would be expected to be present. He had examined a long stretch of the Goyt Valley without results. This sudden appearance and disappearance of *Perla cephalotes* was very interesting and he hoped to explore it further.

Dr. C. G. M. de Worms exhibited a selection of butterflies taken at Abisko, Swedish Lapland, during June, 1950, including the following species: *Clossiana freija*, *C. frigga*, *C. aphirape* f. *ossianus*, *Euphydryas iduna*, *Erebica*

lappona, *E. disa* (new to the district), *Cobias nastes* f. *werdandi* and *Oeneis norna*. He also showed two female examples of the Emerald moth (*Thalera fimbrialis*) found freshly emerged in Kent in July, 1950. There were only four previous British records of this moth.

Mr. Welti exhibited specimens of AGERIIDAE (SESIIDAE) with extruded empty pupal cases. He called attention to *Sciapteron tabaniformis* and *Bembecia hylaeformis* taken by him on the Continent and said that the former was reputed to occur in this country, and the latter species might be expected to occur, although not recorded.

Mr. H. D. Swain exhibited some continental Orthoptera, mostly common species, but all showing points of interest with regard to cryptic coloration, variation, habits or distribution. The specimens included a Mantis found not only in the South of France, its principal European habitat, but also in the Locarno district of Switzerland. Possibly this was a new locality for it, as perusal of records showed that, up till then, the Rhône Valley was the only Swiss locality. The insect was taken in August, 1948, and the exact location was the Vall Maggia, a very rough, stony riverside, with plenty of scrub, grass and other plants. The various species of short- and long-horned grasshoppers exhibited were found very widely distributed over France and Switzerland, up to altitudes of 9000 or 10,000 ft., though only small forms were observed at the greater altitudes. An exception was *Acrida mediterranea* Dirsh, which was found only in the Provençal district of France, some 15 to 20 miles from the Mediterranean coast.

Mr. G. J. Kerrich exhibited some S.E. Palaearctic species of *Anisoctenion* Förster, a genus belonging to the tribe Cteniscini of the ICHNEUMONIDAE exclusively parasitic on sawflies. He recognized seven good described species of the genus in Europe, and one in Japan. Of all these European species he had seen very good series. From the S.E. fringe of the palaearctic region there were nine specimens available to him—five from N.E. Burma and four from Formosa. These districts were about 2200 miles apart, and the Nan-Ling Mts. ran between them. These nine specimens could be divided into four species, of which three were common to the two districts, which seemed a remarkable coincidence. The Burmese representatives of each species were larger and more brightly coloured than those from Formosa, which might, perhaps, be expected; but the range of variation was scarcely greater than could occur within Europe. He was anxious to have observations on the distribution problem from Fellows working with better-known insects. Mr. Benson had referred him to the sawfly monograph of Malaise, in which there were several pairs of species from the two districts known to differ only in colour.

Mr. E. B. Britton exhibited a specimen of *Nebria nivalis* Paykull, a Carabid beetle new to Britain. The species, previously known from arctic Europe, was first recorded in Britain by Dr. C. H. Lindroth in 1935, on the evidence of a single specimen in the Amsterdam Museum. This specimen, labelled "Ben Nevis ex Coll. D. v. d. Hoop," now in the possession of the British Museum, was exhibited. A second specimen collected by the late Dr. F. W. Edwards, on the summit of Cairn Toul in June, 1931, was recently recognized by Dr. K. G. Blair as being different from *Nebria gyllenhali* and probably *Nebria nivalis*. As a result of this discovery a search was made in the British Museum collections, with the result that a third specimen was found in the collection of the late Mr. G. C. Champion. This specimen, also exhibited, was labelled "Aviemore." A fourth specimen, in the possession of Mr. C. MacKechnie Jarvis, was taken on Ben Nevis in May, 1894, by the late Mr. S. R. Ashby. More recently the species had been recognized in a collection of Coleoptera made last year on the arctic slope of Alaska and

brought to the British Museum for determination by Dr. N. A. Weber. Some account of this species in Britain had already been published by Dr. Blair (*Ent. mon. Mag.* **86** : 219-220, 1950, and *loc. cit.* : 220-222).

Professor G. C. Varley exhibited living nymphs of the frog-hopper, *Cercopis (Triecophora) vulnerata* Germar. He said this well-known red-and-black frog-hopper was widely distributed in the country, but its life-history remained unknown until 1920 (see China, 1925, *Ent. mon. Mag.* **61** : 133). The nymphs exhibited were dug up at Wytham, Berks., on 2nd December, feeding on the roots of grasses in large masses of froth a few inches below ground. This life-history contrasted with that of *Philaenus*, the cuckoo-spit insect, which hibernated in the egg stage, and made its froth on exposed parts of plants.

Mr. Edelsten said he had found the species feeding on roots of the lesser bind-weed. Dr. Easton remarked that as spitting was a protective device it was difficult to explain why the insect should spit underground, whereupon Dr. Evans said that one whole subfamily in this group was subterranean and spitting was a protective device against evaporation and not against natural enemies.

Mr. R. L. E. Ford exhibited a series of *Acleris hastiana* L., bred from known parents to illustrate the usefulness of this species for genetic work.

Dr. Jordan spoke of a holiday he had spent in the Pyrenees in search of a flea of which only two females were known and one male. He had successfully collected a series of fifty of each sex. The labour of trapping had left him little time for other collecting, but he had been much interested in observing living *Carabus rutilans*, which was a rarity in central Europe. The brilliant burnished copper of this beetle rendered it most conspicuous when seen from above; he was curious to note, therefore, that when seen at ground level it was green and merged into the green of its surroundings, the change of colour being no doubt of biological significance and probably a protection against predacious birds. He had also been interested to find that *Carabus auronitens*, a nocturnal beetle common in spruce woods in Germany and elsewhere, occurred only above the tree line in the Pyrenees in rocky places and was active by day. He considered this change of habit and habitat must be accompanied by physiological changes and affect the course of evolution in this species.

N. D. RILEY, *Hon. Secretary.*

The next meeting will be held on 7th February, 1951.

NOTICES

In addition to the *Transactions and Proceedings* (Series A, B and C), the following publications are available on application at the Society's rooms :—

THE GENERIC NAMES OF BRITISH INSECTS, WITH CHECK LISTS OF THE SPECIES, prepared by the Committee on Generic Nomenclature of the Royal Entomological Society of London, with the assistance of the Department of Entomology of the British Museum (Natural History) :—

Part 1. Recommendations relating to the publication of the Committee's									
Reports									Price 6d.
„ 2. Rhopalocera	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	3s. 6d.
„ 3. Odonata	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	3s. 6d.
„ 4. Neuroptera	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	3s. 6d.
„ 5. Hymenoptera Aculeata	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	15s. 0d.
„ 6. Coleoptera Carabidae	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	10s. 0d.
„ 7. Coleoptera Hydradephaga	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	5s. 0d.
„ 8. Hemiptera Heteroptera	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	39s. 0d.
„ 9. Coleoptera Staphylinidae	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	40s. 0d.

HANDBOOKS FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF BRITISH INSECTS.

The Society has undertaken the issue of a series of publications intended to provide illustrated Keys to the whole of the British Insect Fauna so far as this is possible.

It is proposed to cover this field in a series of ten volumes, arranged as follows :—

I. Part 1. General Introduction.	Part 9. Ephemeroptera.†
„ 2. Thysanura.	„ 10. Odonata.†
„ 3. Protura.	„ 11. Thysanoptera.*
„ 4. Collembola.*	„ 12. Neuroptera.
„ 5. Dermaptera and Orthoptera.†	„ 13. Mecoptera.
„ 6. Plecoptera.†	„ 14. Trichoptera.
„ 7. Psocoptera.*	„ 15. Strepsiptera.
„ 8. Anoplura.	„ 16. Siphonaptera.
II. Hemiptera.* III. Lepidoptera. IV and V. Coleoptera.*	
VI. Hymenoptera : Symphyta* and Aculeata.*	
VII. Hymenoptera : Ichneumonicoidea.*	
VIII. Hymenoptera : Cynipoidea, Chalcidoidea and Serphoidea.	
IX. Diptera : Nematocera† and Brachycera. X. Diptera : Cyclorrhapha.*	

The following parts are now available :—

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Vol. I, Part 6. Plecoptera. By D. E. Kimmins. Price 3s. 6d. plus postage.
Vol. I, Part 9. Ephemeroptera. By D. E. Kimmins. Price 3s. 6d. plus postage.
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Vol. IX, Part 1. Diptera : Introduction and Key to Families. By H. Oldroyd. Price 7s. 6d. plus postage.
Vol. IX, Part 2. Diptera, Nematocera : Families TIPULIDAE to CHIRONOMIDAE. By R. L. Coe, Paul Freeman and P. F. Mattingly. Price 20s. 0d. plus postage.

Parts marked † are on sale or in the press, those marked * in preparation.

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